

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC**

Joint Application of

**ALASKA AIRLINES, INC.,
HORIZON AIR INDUSTRIES, INC. and
SKYWEST AIRLINES, INC.**

for blanket statements of authorization
pursuant to 14 C.F.R. Part 212
(Codeshare with Air Tahiti Nui)

Docket DOT-OST-2022-_____

**JOINT APPLICATION OF ALASKA AIRLINES, INC.,
HORIZON AIR INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SKYWEST AIRLINES, INC.
FOR BLANKET STATEMENTS OF AUTHORIZATION**

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April 21, 2022

NOTE: The Joint Applicants request expedited approval and will poll the carriers on the attached service list and report the polling results to the Department.

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DATED: April 21, 2022

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FOR BLANKET STATEMENTS OF AUTHORIZATION**

Pursuant to 14 C.F.R. Part 212, Alaska Airlines, Inc. (“Alaska”), Horizon Air Industries, Inc. (“Horizon”), and SkyWest Airlines, Inc. (“SkyWest”) (together, the “Joint Applicants”) hereby apply for blanket statements of authorization to display the TN* designator code of Air Tahiti Nui on flights operated by the Joint Applicants: (i) between points in the United States; and (ii) between points in the United States and points in third countries, for the purpose of transporting Air Tahiti Nui’s French Polynesia-U.S./beyond passengers.¹ The Joint Applicants plan to begin marketing these codeshare services as soon as they have obtained all necessary governmental approvals and respectfully request that the Department promptly approve this

¹ Pursuant to the Department’s Notice in the Matter of Blanket Codeshare Service to Open Skies Partners and Points, Feb. 9, 2009, the Joint Applicants request blanket statements of authorization and provide blanket notification of their intent to display Air Tahiti Nui’s designator code on their flights between points in the U.S. and between points in the U.S. and points beyond the U.S. in countries with which the U.S. has entered into an open skies agreement. The Joint Applicants will notify the Department no later than 30 days before commencing additional codeshare services between points in the U.S. and points in non-open skies countries, including between points in the U.S. and Mexico.

application so that marketing and selling of the proposed codeshare services can begin without delay.² Counsel for the Joint Applicants will poll the carriers on the attached service list and advise the Department of the results. The Joint Applicants request that blanket statements of authorization be granted for an indefinite period, consistent with DOT precedent.

In support of their application, the Joint Applicants state as follows:

1. Alaska is incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska; Horizon is incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington. Alaska's principal headquarters are located at 19300 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington; Horizon's principal headquarters are located at 19521 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington. Both Alaska and Horizon are wholly owned subsidiaries of Alaska Air Group, Inc., which is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. SkyWest is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Utah with its principal place of business located at 444 South River Road, St. George, Utah.

2. Each of the Joint Applicants is a "citizen of the United States" within the meaning of 49 U.S.C. § 40102(a)(15). The Department has repeatedly found the Joint Applicants fit, willing and able to provide interstate and foreign air transportation. Each holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to engage in scheduled interstate and foreign air

² To the extent necessary, the Joint Applicants request a waiver of the 45-day advance filing requirement contained in 14 C.F.R. § 212.10(d)(2).

transportation of persons, property, and mail.³ The Joint Applicants and Air Tahiti Nui hold the underlying authority necessary to operate the proposed codeshare services.⁴

3. The Joint Applicants request blanket statements of authorization to display the TN* designator code of Air Tahiti Nui on flights operated by the Joint Applicants (i) between points in the United States; and (ii) between points in the United States and points in third countries, for the purpose of transporting Air Tahiti Nui's French Polynesia-U.S./beyond passengers. The Joint Applicants' flights will connect Air Tahiti's flights serving the United States with other points in the United States and points in Canada, but may later add other points on Alaska's domestic and international route network – all for purposes of transporting Air Tahiti Nui's French Polynesia-U.S.-beyond traffic.

4. Alaska and Air Tahiti Nui have entered into a codeshare agreement in order to offer competitive and cost-effective air services between French Polynesia and the United States. Grant of this application will expand transportation options between the United States, Tahiti, and other countries served by the Joint Applicants.

³ See In the Matter of Reissuance of Interstate Scheduled Passenger Certificates, Order 98-7-6, July 8, 1998 (Docket DOT-OST-98-4024); Order Issuing Certificates (U.S.-Mexico), Order 2020-10-11, Oct. 21, 2020 (Docket DOT-OST-2016-0149); In the Matter of Blanket Open-Skies Route Authority, Order 2007-7-3, May 7, 2007 (Docket DOT-OST-2007-27790); Application of Horizon Air Industries, Inc. for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (interstate), Order 84-7-79, July 26, 1984 (Docket 42041); Application of Horizon Air Industries, Inc. for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (U.S.-Canada), Order 96-9-17, September 6, 1996 (DOT-OST-95-634); Order Issuing Certificates (U.S.-Mexico), Order 2020-10-11, Oct. 21, 2020 (Docket DOT-OST-2016-0150); Application of SkyWest Airlines, Inc. for Reissuance of Certificates, Order 85-11-49, Nov. 19, 1985 (Docket 43456); Joint Application of SkyWest Airlines, Inc., ExpressJet Airlines, Inc. and Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc. for Approval of a De Facto Transfer of Route Authority Under 49 U.S.C. § 41105, Order 2011-12-11, Oct. 18, 2011 (Dockets DOT-OST-2005-22152 and DOT-OST-2010-0225); In the Matter of Blanket Open-Skies Route Authority for SkyWest Airlines, Inc. Under a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Order 2008-4-26, Feb. 14, 2008 (Docket DOT-OST-2007-0084); Order Issuing Certificates (U.S.-Mexico), Order 2020-10-11, Oct. 21, 2020 (Docket DOT-OST-2016-0156).

⁴ See Order 2003-9-27, Aug. 26, 2003 (Docket DOT-OST-98-4330); DOT authorities cited in footnote 3.

5. The codeshare authority requested herein is consistent with the public interest⁵ and DOT precedent.⁶ The proposed services will enable Alaska and Air Tahiti Nui to provide competitive and cost-effective service between the United States, French Polynesia, and third countries, consistent with the U.S.-France Air Transport Agreement.⁷ Article 8(7) of the Agreement authorizes airlines of both parties to enter cooperative marketing arrangements, which includes codesharing agreements. Furthermore, the codesharing proposed herein will enable more efficient use of capacity in transpacific markets – typically characterized by long, thin routes – and will help maximize the range of services available to the traveling public.

6. The Joint Applicants accept the conditions normally applicable to the codeshare authority requested herein. In addition, the Joint Applicants will comply with the requirements of 14 C.F.R. Part 257 regarding the codeshare services described herein. The codesharing arrangements contemplated by this application are fully consistent, and will not interfere, with Alaska's commitment to the Civil Reserve Air Fleet.

⁵ See Statement of United States International Air Transportation Policy, 60 Fed. Reg. 21841, 21842 (May 3, 1995) (recognizing the public benefits offered by codeshare arrangements between U.S. and foreign carriers).

⁶ See Department Action on Joint Application of Alaska Airlines, Inc.; Horizon Air Industries, Inc.; and SkyWest Airlines, Inc. for a Blanket Statement of Authorization, Docket DOT-OST-2021-0071 (June 8, 2021) (the Department granted Alaska, Horizon, and SkyWest similar blanket codeshare authority on June 8, 2021, permitting it to carry Qatar Airways' QR* designator code on flights (i) between points in the United States, and (ii) between points in the United States and points in third countries); *see also* NOAT, Docket DOT-OST-2018-0034 (Mar. 29, 2018) (the Department granted French bee a statement of authorization to carry Air Caraibes' TX* designator code on its Paris, France-San Francisco, California-Papeete, French Polynesia route).

⁷ The U.S.-France Air Transport Agreement, as amended, remains in effect for French Polynesia and provides for bilateral and third-country codesharing.

WHEREFORE, Alaska, Horizon and SkyWest respectfully request that the Department promptly grant them blanket statements of authorization to engage in codeshare operations with Air Tahiti Nui as more fully described herein, and such other and further relief as the Department deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: April 21, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing Joint Application of Alaska Airlines, Inc., Horizon Air Industries, Inc., and SkyWest Airlines, Inc. by electronic mail upon the following:

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DATED: April 21, 2022